a first spindle having one end mounted on said base surface and extending perpendicularly away from said base surface;

a first cam rotatably mounted on said first spindle;

said first cam having a first cam surface perpendicular to said base surface and convex toward said abutment surface;

said first cam operably arranged to permit positioning a rope between said first cam surface and said abutment surface and to provide that when tension is applied to said rope in one direction, said rope is seized between said first cam surface and abutment surface by said first cam rotating toward said abutment means and when tension is applied to said rope in an opposite direction, said rope is released from between said first cam surface and [and] abutment surface permitting withdrawal of said rope;

a cover means for retaining said rope between said abutment surface and said first cam surface when said cover means is in a retain position and for permitting engagement and withdrawal of said rope from between said abutment surface and said first cam surface when said cover means is in a release position.

8. The rope cleat of claim 1 further comprising:

a second cam mounted on another end of said spindle and operably arranged for rotation between said retain and release positions;

said second cam having a second cam surface perpendicular to said base surface and convex toward said abutment surface; and

said second cam surface operably arranged to permit positioning a rope between said second cam surface and said abutment surface providing that when tension is applied to said rope in one direction, said rope is seized between said second cam surface and abutment surface by said second cam rotating toward said abutment means; and when tension is applied to said rope in an opposite direction, said rope is seized by said first cam.

9. The rope cleat of claim [5] 8 further comprising spring means having one spring end abutting said first cam and a second spring end abutting said second cam operably arranged to bias said first cam surface toward said abutment means and said second cam surface toward said abutment means;

means for manually rotating said first and second cams away from said abutment means.

10. The rope cleat of claim [9] 8 wherein said abutment means comprises: